

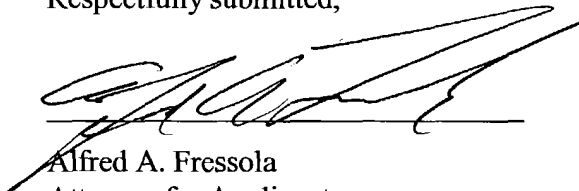
REMARKS

Applicant has amended the present application to indicate priority claimed and to insert additional description into the specification to clarify that the rod shown in Figure 1 (or Fig. 2) has a second end that extends beyond coating 6, that a second metal interface is fixed to the second end of the rod, and that a second metal end fitting is secured to this second metal interface. It is believed that the application is now in condition for examination. Examination of the claims and early passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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